

MAJOR DUTIES

As a trainee for Bridge Control Officer or Dredge Control Officer on a seagoing hopper dredge, incumbent performs a variety of duties designed to supplement employee's knowledge of general maritime practices by providing on-the-job experience and exposure to the more specialized practices and procedures required in hopper dredge operations.

1. Serves as assistant to the bridge watch officer in order to learn ship handling and channel navigation procedures peculiar to dredging. Stands quartermaster watch and is responsible for steering the vessel following specific instructions from the Mate; uses compass, ranges, fixed navigation aids, and electronic positioning equipment to maintain required courses. With experience, incumbent is expected to learn the handling characteristics of the dredge and be able to compensate for action of wind and current on the movement of the ship. Incumbent is expected to develop a good working knowledge of the river and bar channel areas where the dredge normally operates; should be knowledgeable about channel condition, navigation aids, currents, shoaling, traffic, obstructions, etc., in these areas. In addition, employee is required to develop an understanding of the US Lateral Buoyage System and applicable "rules of the road" (i.e. use of ship's lights, steering rules, whistle and fog signals. etc.), be able to respond to the various bridge alarm systems, and internal and ship communications systems. Also, helps to maintain ship's dredging and bridge logs, operates dredging lights and signals, and serves as an additional lookout during the watch.®®2. As a trainee, also works with the Dredge Control Officer to develop a good working knowledge of the dredging controls and the operation of dredging equipment. As assigned, operates dredge plant controls under the immediate direction of the control officer to accomplish routine dredging activities in accordance with plans and specifications or following instructions from the Master. Also under initially close supervision, accomplishes routine maintenance and operator's repair to dredging controls and equipment, learns procedures for transferring from automated to manual mode of operations. When the Master has determined that the incumbent is fully capable of independently performing the duties of the bridge watch officer and dredge control officer, employee may be assigned to relieve these officers for brief periods (i.e. meal relief, breaks, and other occasions of very short absence

3. Performs other miscellaneous deck-officer duties as required. As needed, may operate crewboat, survey boat, rescue boat, etc., in the absence of the regularly assigned operators or for training purposes. Also, as required, may serve as "lifeboat captain" during abandon ship drill or operations. Stands security watch when dredge is docked for supplies or repair. May be assigned to direct or participate in routine deck maintenance activities or in the difficult overhaul or repair of deck and dredging machinery and equipment.

Performs other duties as assigned.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGES

The incumbent of this position is required to possess at least a Third Mate (Oceans) license. Must possess the ability to understand the principles of operation of automated winches and related mechanical systems. Must be capable of being trained in the operation, troubleshooting, and repair of electronic-mechanical systems.

RESPONSIBILITY

Works under the general supervision of the Master, and under the more immediate direction of the Mate on watch, who provides orientation and training on dredging practices and procedures. Superiors provide initially close guidance and direction on the maneuvering of the vessel and the operation of dredging equipment; however, as employee progresses in skill and experience these controls are gradually lessened. Incumbent works within the general framework of established maritime practices, and is expected to apply and adapt these skills and knowledges in accomplishing assigned duties. Work is continually reviewed and assessed to evaluate employee's development and determine future training needs.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Spends most of time in the pilothouse. Occasionally goes outside in all kinds of weather to attend to certain duties, being exposed to the elements and subject to slipping on wet decks. Danger of drowning exists in case of accident.

PHYSICAL EFFORT

Light effort is required for continuous standing and operating of various controls while on watch. Incumbent must have color and depth perception and be able to see in low visibility conditions in order to navigate a dredge. Incumbent is required to exert moderate to heavy physical effort when required to assist with the loading and unloading of stores and other items.